



EARTH DAY— Think Globally Act Locally

On April 22, people around the world celebrated Earth Day to recognize how far we've come and keep working on what still needs to be done.



It's far better to reduce the toxicity and amount of solid waste in the first place than to cope with it after it has been created. Through source reduction, recycling, and composting, many environmental benefits and cost savings can be realized. Just remember the four "Rs"...

Reduce. Packaging serves many purposes. Its primary purpose is to protect and contain a product. It also can prevent tampering, provide information, and preserve hygienic integrity and freshness. Some packaging, however, is designed largely to enhance a product's attractiveness or prominence on the store shelf. Since packaging materials account for a large volume of the trash we generate, they provide a good opportunity for reducing waste. In addition, keep in mind that as the amount of product in a container increases, the packaging waste per serving or use usually decreases.

Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.

Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity.

Reuse. Many products are designed to be used more than once. Reusable products and containers often result in less waste. This helps reduce the cost of managing solid waste and often



Consider reusable products.

Maintain and repair durable products.

Reuse bags, containers, and other items.

Borrow, rent, or share items used infrequently.

Sell or donate goods instead of throwing them out.

Recycle. When you've done all you can to avoid waste, recycle. Producing goods from recycled materials typically consumes less energy and conserves raw materials. Yet, our landfills are packed with many packages and products that can be recycled.

Choose recyclable products and containers and recycle them.

Select products made from recycled materials.

Compost yard trimmings and some food scraps.

Respond. Share information about recycling, and composting with others. Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, local businesses, and decision-makers. Encourage them to learn more about solid waste issues and to work toward implementing and promoting source reduction, recycling, and composting. We all have the power to influence others and help create the type of world in which we want to live.

Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices.

Be creative—find new ways to reduce waste quantity and toxicity.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov>

■ FORESTS: OUR PLANET'S ENDANGERED EDENS



Forests are prime reservoirs of biodiversity, as well as the ancient cradle of the human race. Anthropologists believe that species ancestral to ours lived amid the trees, later emerging to grassland savannas to explore and hunt.

Forests and woodlands over the world have changed over the millennia due to changes in climate and geology. In the modern world, forests are classified into various groups, including temperate-zone and tropical forests. Not all rain forests are in the tropics -- some are in cooler climates. And there are other kinds, such as riparian forests, that separate interior areas from coastlines.

According to the U.S. State Department, "one of every six known bird species, one of every 11 mammals, and one of every 15 reptiles" makes the Amazon rainforest its home. Unfortunately, as David B. Sandalow, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, recently noted: "Tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Saws and bulldozers are leveling roughly 200 hectares per minute. A soccer field is close to two hectares, so we are losing about 120 soccer fields of tropical forest per minute, more than 7,000 soccer fields per hour, more than 170,000 soccer fields per day."

Forests are stores of food. About a dozen fruits - apples, peaches, strawberries, bananas, etc. - dominate world consumption. There are probably about 3,000 more kinds of fruits in the tropics, of which 200 are widely eaten. Tens of thousands of other grains, vegetables, and forms of plant food are out there waiting to cure starvation and create greater variety on the dinner table, if they are allowed to survive. The winged bean of New Guinea, for instance, is full of protein, is entirely edible, and can be fried, roasted, ground into flour, or served as a hot beverage. And it grows to a length of 4 meters in a few weeks. The Amazonian babassu palm, still found in a natural state, offers the world's highest yield of vegetable oil from its fruit. It can also feed livestock, produce thatching materials, and be burned for charcoal. Iguana meat is prized by many in the Southern Hemisphere. Scientists estimate forest-ranched iguanas can yield ten times the amount of meat as cattle on the same acreage of cleared land. Other less well-known, yet tasty, animals could produce much food without destroying their forest cover.

Around the world, 500 million people are thought to depend on forests for their livelihood - an incentive to preserve the health of forests and to protect them as a sustainable resource for future generations.

Source: based in part on „Forests our Planet's Endangered Edens“
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/biodiv/forest.htm>

Today in History

Earth Day was first observed in Spring of 1970. An estimated 20 million people nationwide attended festivities out of which came the largest grassroots environmental movement in U.S. history, and the impetus for national legislation like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It also sparked the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

By the twentieth anniversary of that event, **April 22, 1990**, more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day celebrations. Earth Day is not without historical precedent. Both **Arbor Day** and **Bird Day** were established in the late 1800s to support forestation, conservation, and the appreciation of nature.

Source: loc.gov



Facts

■ About 4 billion trees are cut down every year. From 1990-1995, there was a net global forest loss of 112,600 square kilometers per year (equal to 33 soccer fields per minute)

■ Rainforests are home to about half of the Earth's 5 to 10 million plant and animal species.

■ 78 million acres of rainforest are destroyed each year—an area more than half the side of Spain.

■ Approximately 40 percent of the world's remaining frontier forest is under moderate or high threat.

■ Over 20% of all the carbon dioxide that is being added to the atmosphere through human activities is the result of the deforestation

Source: <http://www.earthday.net>

American Lynx, European Lynx and Iberian Lynx



American Lynx or Bobcat – *LYNX RUFUS*

Class: Animals with Milk Glands
(Mammalia)

Subclass: True Mammals (Eutheria)

Order: Even-toed Mammals
(Artiodactyla)

Family: Felidae.

The **Name** "Cat" is the Old English word for the animal. "Bob" comes from

its short, or "bobbed" tail.

Location: Southern Canada, the United States (except in the prairies), and parts of Mexico.

Habitat: Varied: most frequently found in forests.

Description: The very soft coat is light brown with black markings, but the pattern varies considerably. The underside of the body is white with black markings. The tail has a white tip. Length of head and body is up to 3.33 feet long, with another 7 inches for the tail. It can weigh up to 35 pounds.

Behavior: This is a solitary animal, living in well-marked territories in burrows or dens. It does not often travel outside this area except when migrating to a new area. It feeds mainly on hares and cottontail rabbits, but also eats rodents and deer.



European Lynx - *LYNX LYNX*

Class: Animals with Milk Glands
(Mammalia)

Subclass: True Mammals (Eutheria)

Order: Meat-eating Mammals
(Carnivora)

Family: Felidae

The **Name** "Lynx" comes from the Greek "lunx," for the animal.

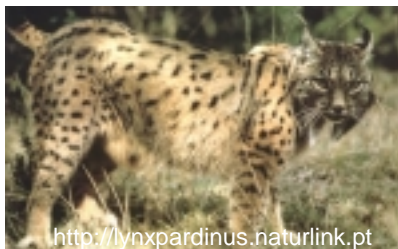
Location: Eastern Europe and Asia

Habitat: Montane forests and woodlands at altitudes from sea level to high

in the mountains.

Description: Similar in appearance to a large house cat, the coat is normally yellowish brown with dark spots and the underside is white and delicately speckled; but color varies geographically. The ears have terminal tufts of black hair. The tail is short and has a black tip. The feet are large and densely furred, even on the soles, the claws are retractile. These cats grow over 4 feet long, with another 10 inches for the tail. It can weigh up to 100 pounds.

Behavior: The lynx is active mainly after sundown. It hunts rabbits, hares, birds, and small deer. It cannot run especially fast, but it can climb trees.



Iberian Lynx - *LYNX PARDINUS*

Critical Endangered

Class: Animals with Milk Glands
(Mammalia)

Subclass: True Mammals (Eutheria)

Order: Meat-eating Mammals
(Carnivora)

Family: Felidae

In the South of Spain and Portugal,

there is a particular kind of lynx, the so-called Iberian lynx. It has been upgraded from Endangered to Critically Endangered. With the population declined to less than half of the 1,200 in the early 1990s, the Iberian lynx is close to becoming the first wild cat species to go extinct for at least 2,000 years. The species occurs in Mediterranean woodland and maquis thicket, favouring dense scrub for shelter and open pasture for hunting rabbits.

These cats are smaller than their European relatives, and very similar in size to the bobcat; they grow to 3.25 feet long. It can weigh up to 33 pounds.

Habitat fragmentation by agricultural and industrial development has resulted in the population being confined to scattered groups in the southwestern quadrant of the Iberian Peninsula.

Sources: www.americazoo.com • www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/RedList2002/rl_species.htm • www.salvalince.com

Plant a Tree

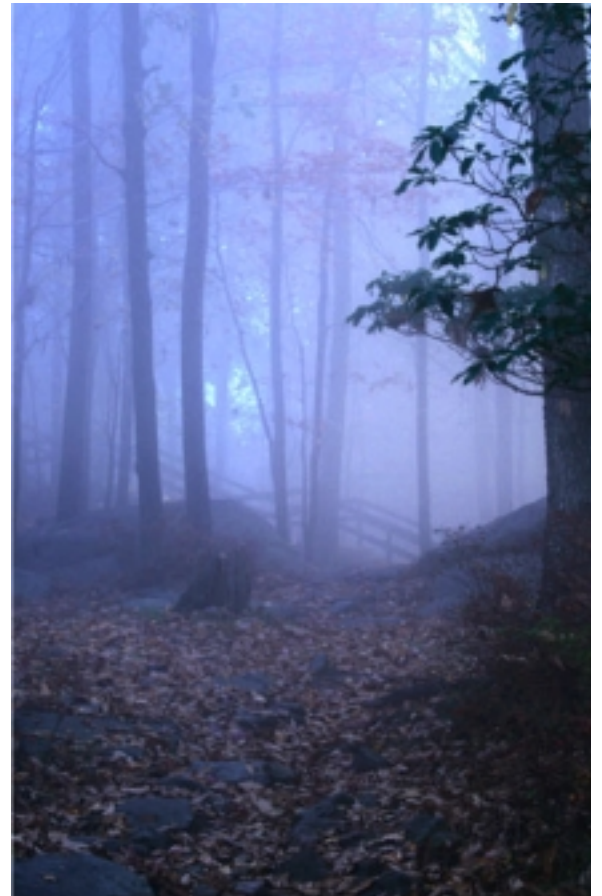
Tree Planting Procedure

1. Prepare planting area by turning up soil in an area 3 to 5 times the size of the root ball.
2. Dig a hole in the center of the area, so that the tree rests on solid soil.
3. Backfill and use water to settle the soil.
4. Mulch a 3-6" deep ring around the tree, being careful not to pile mulch near the trunk. (Stake only if necessary due to high winds.)
5. Water every week and watch for signs of insects or disease. Signs of disease include yellowing leaves, foliage loss, discoloration of visible roots, and failure to grow.
6. Protect tree from damage caused by feet, lawnmowers, pets, etc.

Make a long-term plan for the tree's care.

Water a new tree weekly for the first 6 months and keep an eye on it for at least 3-5 years. Plan who will look after the tree in the summer and in future years.

Source: www.earthday.net



Win a Book!

To take part in a drawing for one Earth related book check out our website:

www.embusa.es/irc/zoom/

and find the answer to the following question:

Earth Day in 1970 led to the creation of what federal agency or legislation?

☐ United States Environmental Protection Agency

☐ Clean Air Act

☐ Clean Water Act

☐ All of the above

Send your answer to:
irc@embusa.es

State your name, address, and age.

The deadline is May 31st.

Word Search

Earth Day Every Day



AIR
ANIMALS
CARE
CLEAN
CONSERVATION
EARTH
ECOSYSTEM
ENERGY
EXTINCT
FUEL
HABITAT
HOME
LANDFILLS
LITTER
OCEANS
OXYGEN
OZONE
PEOPLE
PLANTS
POLLUTION
PRESERVE
RAINFOREST
RECYCLE
RESOURCE
REUSE
SOIL
VOLUNTEER
WATER
WETLANDS
WORLD

V	O	X	K	R	Z	C	T	S	F	T	P	F	Y
P	Z	X	O	C	E	A	N	S	F	U	M	O	C
T	O	P	Y	M	E	C	R	U	O	S	E	R	O
P	N	K	O	G	D	N	Y	S	P	Y	T	L	N
E	E	H	G	L	E	T	D	C	G	A	S	C	S
X	N	O	S	L	L	N	N	R	L	L	Y	E	E
T	A	K	P	I	A	U	E	H	Q	E	S	V	R
I	E	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	O	R	V
N	L	I	T	T	E	R	D	I	S	M	C	E	A
C	C	E	W	R	A	I	N	F	O	R	E	S	T
T	W	R	A	E	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	E	I
T	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	L	L	L	R	R	O
C	E	C	E	K	R	K	S	T	N	A	L	P	N
G	D	L	R	O	W	Y	B	Q	R	E	U	S	E

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Earth Day True or False Sentences

In the following 5 sentences, mark T or F to indicate whether the new "Earth Day word" has been used properly!

- ___ 1. Did you smell the pungent **OZONE** near the swamp this morning?
- ___ 2. The **BOTANICAL** animals were able to roam in a natural, secure habitat.
- ___ 3. Is the American Bald Eagle still on the **ENDANGERED** Species List?
- ___ 4. The **FAUNA** in Africa include the lion, leopard and gazelle.
- ___ 5. In the winter when the leaves have fallen, Adam likes to **DEFOLIATE** the trees.

The word "**ecology**" comes from the Greek word meaning "....."

Find Correct **Answers** at: www.embusa.es/irc/zoom

ZOOM
in on the usa

About ZOOM

Zoom is online at
www.embusa.es/irc/zoom

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